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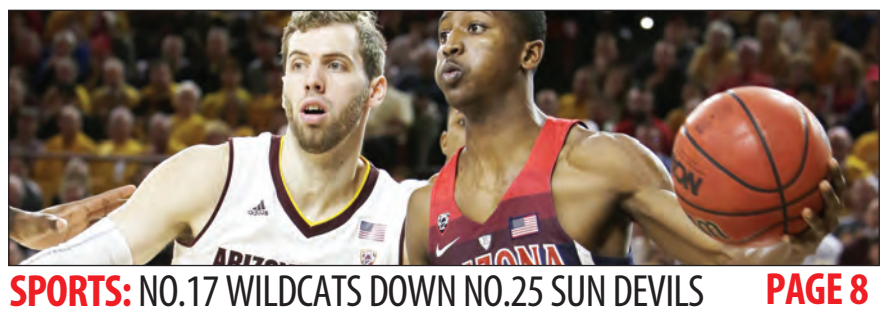

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SCHOOLS

Robust student safety plan a priority

Active-shooter drills, assistance from students on possible threats helping effort

By DAVID LOUIS
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

In the aftermath of Wednesday's school shooting in Florida, Lake Havasu Unified School District officials believe its "robust" safety plan gives students the best chance at being protected while at school.

The shooting which left 17 dead, dozens wounded and five with life-threatening injuries, brought home just how important it is to talk about safety, train for an active-shooter on campus and encourage students to report threats.

"Can you be 100 percent prepared," said Superintendent Diana Asseier. "I don't think you are ever 100 percent prepared for something like this because each situation is unique, but in the era of school shootings we are much more aware."

As part of its ongoing safety initiatives, the district conducted a major review, at the beginning of the school year, on procedures if there is a threat on campus.

As part of its safety plan the school district schedules hard lockdown drills quarterly, with the high school going one step further this year, practicing a fire drill and hard lockdown on the first day of school.

"It's a difficult question to the answer, when is it safe and when is it not," Asseier said. "Even though nobody ever anticipates something like this happening, we need to be prepared to minimize possible threats to our students, and for them to participate thoughtfully in the age that we live in."

One advantage Havasu has in helping keep its high school safe is that participation.

"Students have been very good about telling us what is posted on Facebook or when they hear things they feel might be a threat. They let us know, so we can respond," Asseier said. "We take these (potential threats) very seriously and investigate everything that is referred to us."

The Lake Havasu City Police Department also is on the frontline of school safety.

Along with conducting annual active shooter scenarios on district campuses, officers are assigned full time at Thunderbolt Middle School as well Lake Havasu High School.

Student protection is a top priority for the department, said Police Chief Dan Doyle.

"The police department works closely

See SAFETY, Page 6

House panel OKs stronger penalty for docs not following rules on medical marijuana

By HOWARD FISCHER
CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

PHOENIX — State lawmakers are moving to make felons of doctors who don't follow all the rules when recommending that a patient be allowed to use marijuana.

BORRELLI

The 6-3 vote Thursday by the House Health Committee for HB 2067 would impose prison terms of up to a year for medical professionals who fail to conduct a full medical exam before issuing the required state

See MARIJUANA, Page 6

Special guest visiting later this year

Lord Mayor of City of London planning Havasu stop

courtesy of the City of London's website
Charles Bowman, Lord Mayor of the City of London

By CHELSEA CURTIS
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the purchase of the London Bridge, the Lord Mayor of the City of London is planning to visit Lake Havasu City later this year.

Charles Bowman is tentatively scheduled to visit Havasu in October, according to Mayor Mark Nexsen.

"We plan to invite a number of dignitaries to meet the Lord Mayor but not until we have a confirmed date," Nexsen wrote in an email. "We are currently considering a number of events to honor his visit and show him the beauty of our city and people."

Bowman was elected as Lord Mayor last September and is the 690th person to hold the position as head of the Corporation of London, according to the City of London's website. He oversees the one-square-mile city, which sits near the middle of London but acts as its own municipality.

Fifty years ago in April, Robert McCulloch purchased Havasu's London Bridge from the City of London. Havasu was incorporated 10 years later.

Nexsen and long-time Havasu resident John Parrott also have plans to visit the City of London in May as both are recipients of the Freedom of

See LORD MAYOR, Page 6

ROCK AND ROLL STYLE

Today's News-Herald file

Ray Black trims hair at last year's Rockabilly Reunion.

Rockabilly barber to join Reunion this weekend

Courtesy of Ray Black

Barber and ordained minister Ray Black came to Lake Havasu City after visiting for Havasu's Rockabilly Reunion in 2017. Black now owns and operates Ray's Flat Top Joint barber shop in downtown Havasu.

By BRANDON MESSICK
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

If there's a rock and roll heaven, you know they've got a hell of a band.

In 1973, the Righteous Brothers said almost everything that needs to be said about Lake Havasu City's annual Rockabilly Reunion. As the event returns for its 10th year, a former St. Louis man might be as close to heaven as he can get.

Ray Black, a barber and ordained minister, visited Havasu for the first time last February, when he was invited to attend Havasu's Rockabilly Reunion. Black was no stranger to the rockabilly atmosphere, embracing a culture of rockin' oldies, classic cars, pin-up girls, pomade and dark leather. Havasu, however, left an impression on him.

"I met some great people, and became great friends with Linda K. Thrasher, a hair stylist in the booth next to me," Black said. "I was already planning to move to the Southwest, and it's beautiful here. It's paradise. It's gorgeous. It's a beautiful beach town right in the middle of the

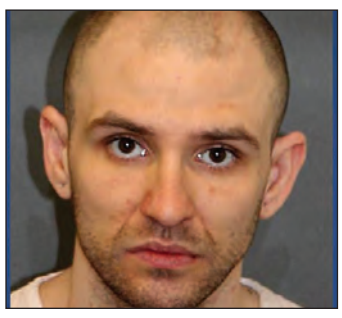
See BARBER, Page 6

Death penalty not sought in trial of Bullhead girl's murder

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KINGMAN — The death penalty is no longer being sought for a man charged with killing an 8-year-old girl in Bullhead City, state prosecutors said Thursday.

In a motion filed in Mohave County Superior Court, prosecutors withdrew the state's notice to seek the death penalty for Justin James Rector but said they still intend to seek a first-degree murder conviction whenever his



RECTOR

GROGAN-CANNELLA

long-delayed trial is held.

Rector, of Bullhead City, is charged with first-degree murder, kidnapping, child abuse and abandonment of a dead body in the September 2014 death of Isabella Grogan-Cannella.

Authorities say he strangled the girl. Her partially clothed body was found in a shallow grave near her Bullhead City home.

A police detective testified in a 2016 court hearing for Rector that there also was evidence the girl was sexually assaulted.

Prosecutors said last year that case has been stalled

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OBITUARIES

There are no obituaries today

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